

11

LUC-322/ Green 1-1-1-2-32

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 8-17 are amended, claim 7 is canceled, and claims 18-21 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 7, lines 19-23, page 9, lines 14-25, page 10, lines 1-4, page 13, lines 3-11, and page 15, lines 18-23), drawings (e.g., FIGS. 1-2 and 8), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,618; "Porter '618"). Claim 1 is rejected under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by O'Donovan, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,908; "O'Donovan"). Claim 1 is rejected under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Porter (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,270; "Porter '270"). Claim 10 is rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter '618 in view of Finnigan (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,780). Claim 13 is rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Donovan in view of Arumainayagam, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,599; "Arumainayagam"). Claims 14-17 are rejected under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Weare, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,483; "Weare"). These rejections are respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

12

LUC-322/ Green 1-1-1-2-32

It is well-settled that there is no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function. Since each of the applied references is missing at least one element of each of applicants' independent claims, applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by either of the applied references, as further discussed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, with or without combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention, as further discussed below.

For explanatory purposes, applicants discuss herein one or more differences between the applied references and the claimed invention with reference to one or more parts of the applied references. This discussion, however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the applied references correspond to the claimed invention.

CLAIM 1 AND CORRESPONDING DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claim 1, is directed to a configuration that comprises:

one or more voicemail system components that employ an internet protocol network to store or access one or more voicemail messages on one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail system components are coupled with the one or more storage devices through the internet protocol network;

wherein the one or more voicemail system components comprise a first voice mailbox and a second voice mailbox;

wherein the first voice mailbox comprises an address of a location on a storage device, of the one or more storage devices;

wherein the second voice mailbox comprises the address;

wherein the address is employable by one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the applied references fails to teach or suggest, for example, the first voice mailbox and the second voice mailbox that comprise the same address of the location on the storage device, of the one or more storage devices, wherein the address is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

Porter '618 (Col. 11, lines 24-43) discloses a voice mail system component that has a database with a first voice mailbox address for each subscriber coupled through the internet:

The voice processing system then utilizes the identity of the called party to access database 525. In the preferred embodiment, the mailbox number is the same as a subscriber's direct dial extension number (for an international call). The full voice mail address includes not only the mailbox number, but also the Internet (IP) address of the voice mail machine on which the mailbox resides.

Porter '618 discloses the voice mail machine that has a database for each subscriber, wherein each database has a first mailbox address for each subscriber coupled to the voice mail machine through the internet. There is no disclosure in Porter '618 of a voice mail machine that has a database with a first and second mailbox having the same address for the same subscriber. Simply missing from Porter '618 is any mention of the second voice mailbox in the database that has the same address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

So, Porter '618 fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

O'Donovan (Col. 6, lines 32-44 and col. 7 lines 1-7) discloses a voice mail system that stores a voicemail message coupled to a storage device through the Internet:

In this case, the block (311) indicates that the calling entity has originated a call on the public switched telephone network. Thereafter, as indicated by block (312), the calling entity receives the message B indicating that the called party is not available and that voice mail should be used. Further the message also contains the data address of the called party. At this stage, the calling entity concludes the voice call as indicated by block (313) and as indicated by the message C. The next step in the sequence is the calling party is invited to leave a voice mail message as indicated by the block (314) and thereafter the message is recorded using the voice message server (16) at the calling entity as indicated by the block (315). After the caller has concluded his voice message, the caller hangs up as indicated by the block (316) and the initial sequence of events is concluded.

Once the voice message is in a suitable form, the network access device (14) accesses the network as indicated in FIG. 4 using the network data address obtained via the message B and this data message is sent over the data network (40) to the corresponding data network access device (24) of the receiving entity as indicated by the message E in FIG. 4.

O'Donovan discloses the voice message server that stores the voice message for the called party at the data address on a data network. There is no disclosure in O'Donovan of a voice mail system that stores the voice message at a second voice message server having the same address as the first voice message server for the same called party. Simply missing from O'Donovan is any mention of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

So, O'Donovan fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

Porter '270 (Col. 5, lines 26-37 and Col. 6, lines 20-32) discloses a voice mail system component for accessing a voicemail message from a storage device through the internet:

FIG. 3 illustrates schematically the architecture whereby access can be provided to voice mail messages in a voice mail system over the Internet World wide Web (WWW). More specifically, a user at a WWW client 310, can obtain access to their voice mail through the Internet WWW communication network 320 and a WWW server 330. The server in turn is attached to a message client 350, which communicates with a message server 370. This latter component is an application on a DirectTalk/6000 voice processing system which is used to access voice message information, including the voice messages themselves, and direct this back towards the requesting WWW Client.

In order to access their voice mail over the WWW, a user needs to know firstly the URL corresponding to the voice mail system, and secondly their own mailbox number. Note that these will be the same irrespective of the location of a user (unlike a telephone number, where local/district codes may be dropped, and international access codes may vary). When the user enters the URL of the voice mail system, this results in a request being passed to the server 330. The server then retrieves a corresponding HTML file from the database 340, which produces a screen display as shown in FIG. 4. At the top of this screen is a control bar 410, which is provided in known fashion by the WWW Client to allow the user to control their interaction with the WWW.

Porter '270 discloses the world wide web voice mail system component for retrieving the voice messages from the mailbox number in the database. There is no disclosure in Porter '270 of a world wide web voice mail system for access of the voice messages at a second mailbox having the same address as the first mailbox. Simply missing from Porter 270' is any mention of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

So, Porter '270 fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

The shortcomings of Porter '618 relative to certain elements of the claimed invention have been discussed above. The Office Action proposes a combination of Porter '618 with Finnigan. However, Finnigan does not overcome the deficiency of Porter '618. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of Porter '618 with Finnigan fails to provide the required configuration, assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of Porter '618 with Finnigan is proper.

Finnigan (Col. col. 12: lines 24-42) discloses a voice message system for accessing a voice message stored at a voice message address for a user:

A voice message destination decision block 108 represents the first voice message system determining whether the voice message address of the user is associated with the first voice message system or another voice message system.

If the voice message address of the user is associated with the first voice message system, a user file searching block 110 represents the first voice message system searching the user file for a storage location associated with the voice message address of the user.

A voice signature returning block 112 represents the first voice message system returning a voice signature of the user to the first user to authenticate the voice message address of the user.

If, however, the voice message address of the user is that of the second user and is associated with the second voice message system, a network file searching block 114 represents the first voice message system searching the network file for a storage location associated with the network voice message address of the second user.

Finnigan discloses the voice message system that accesses the voice message stored at the voice message address for the user. There is no disclosure in Finnigan of a voice message system that accesses the voice message from a first and a second voice mailbox at the same voice message address. Simply missing from Finnigan is any mention of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more

of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

So, Finnigan fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

Porter '618 and Finnigan both fail to meet at least one of applicants' claimed features. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Porter '618 or Finnigan of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying Porter '618 and/or Finnigan to provide the claimed configuration. Applicants respectfully submit that these documents fail to provide the express teaching, suggestion, or incentive, and the claimed invention is thus patentable over the art of record.

The shortcomings of O'Donovan relative to certain elements of the claimed invention have been discussed above. The Office Action proposes a combination of O'Donovan with Arumainayagam. However, Arumainayagam does not overcome the deficiency of O'Donovan. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of O'Donovan with Arumainayagam fails to provide the required configuration, assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination O'Donovan with Arumainayagam is proper.

Arumainayagam (Col. 5, lines 7-22) discloses a voice message system for copying a voice message with one or more user addresses to another voice message system:

To perform a delivery an outdial request is made to select an outgoing trunk and VPU port on which a send facility will conduct the delivery session. The send facility is a part of the voicemail application process. The send facility performs the

outdial call 96 to the destination system which answers 97 the call. The send facility on the originating host communicates with the receive facility on the destination host to deliver messages. A delivery session is established by validating 98 and 100 the password and host identifier (ID) of the destination system, and performing a line continuity check.

The first action taken to deliver a message is the transmission 102 and 104 of the message information (sender, recipient, urgent flag, etc.) to the destination system. If the message has multiple recipients, then the mailbox numbers of additional recipients are transmitted.

Arumainayagam discloses the destination system that receives a message with message information from a sending system. There is no disclosure in Arumainayagam of a voice message system that accesses the voice message from a first and a second voice mailbox at the same voice message address through the internet. Simply missing from Arumainayagam is any mention of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

So, Arumainayagam fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

O'Donovan and Arumainayagam both fail to meet at least one of applicants' claimed features. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in O'Donovan or Arumainayagam of the second voice mailbox stored at the same data address as the first voice mailbox and is employable by the one or more of the one or more voicemail system components to access the voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device through the internet.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying O'Donovan and/or Arumainayagam to provide

the claimed configuration. Applicants respectfully submit that these documents fail to provide the express teaching, suggestion, or incentive, and the claimed invention is thus patentable over the art of record.

Independent claim 1 presented herewith is believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 1, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

CLAIMS 14 AND 16 AND CORRESPONDING DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claim 14, is directed to an approach that comprises:

copying an address of a voicemail message on a second voice mailbox, on a second voicemail system component, from a first voice mailbox, on a first voicemail system component, to move an association with a user from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox, wherein the first and second voicemail system components are coupled with a storage device through an internet protocol network.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not teach or suggest one or more elements of the claimed invention. A careful reading of the applied references fails to teach or suggest, for example, the first voice mailbox and the second voice mailbox that are coupled with the storage device through the internet protocol network.

Weare (col. 4, lines 21-46) discloses a voice mail system component for copying an address of a voicemail message from a first voice mailbox to a second voice mailbox:

When the APU 24 provides voicemail services, the voice messages are stored on the hard drives 64, 66. The CPU 58 is programmed to provide services to subscribers as disclosed in the patents assigned to Boston Technology, Inc. which have been incorporated herein by reference.

Under conventional operation, callers using one of the telephones 80 (FIG. 1) can leave messages for subscribers and subscribers can retrieve their messages on the information services system 10. Each subscriber is assigned a home APU 24 where messages are stored provided a port is available when a caller wants to leave a message for that subscriber. If no ports are available, the message is routed by the DSS 20 to another APU. In either case, the location of the message is stored in the database for the subscriber in the MCU. The basic functions provided to subscribers are listen to, save, forward and delete messages. In addition, a system administrator is given the ability to create and delete mailboxes for subscribers and move the contents of one mailbox to another mailbox. The system administrator also can modify mailbox parameters, such as length of time that messages are retained, maximum number of messages, etc. on individual mailboxes, ranges of mailboxes, or all mailboxes on the information services system 10. Similar capabilities are provided for other information services, such as those provided by facsimile processing units 24.sub.D -24.sub.N.

Weare discloses the voice mail services that an administrator can employ to copy the voice message from one voice mailbox to another mailbox by copying the address of the voice message. There is no disclosure in Weare of the one voice mailbox coupled and the other voice mailbox coupled with a storage device through an internet protocol network. Simply missing from Weare is any mention of the first voice mailbox and the second voice mailbox that are coupled with the storage device through the internet protocol network.

So, Weare fails to satisfy at least one of applicants' claim limitations.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not allege that the art of record provides any teaching, suggestion, or incentive for modifying Weare to provide the claimed approach. Applicants respectfully submit that these documents fail to provide the express teaching, suggestion, or incentive, and the claimed invention is thus patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 14 and 16 presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable

21

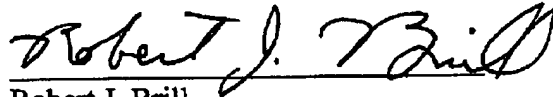
LUC-322/ Green 1-1-1-2-32

for the same reasons as independent claims 14 and 16, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

Withdrawal of the §§102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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